



HF Happenings



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

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South African Radio League 80 metre QSO Party

The October leg of the South African Radio League 80 metre QSO Party will be held on Thursday evening 2 October from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC with activity between 3 603 and 3 650 kHz and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz. The exchange is the call signs of each station, a signal report and the operator's names. A QSO with a South African station counts 10 points and a QSO with a station outside South Africa counts 15 points. Submit your log by 11 October to zs5lp@vodamail.co.za

The way forward for Islands on the Air (IOTA)

Radio Society of Great Britain - Date: 24 September 2014



Islands on the Air (IOTA) celebrated its 50th anniversary as a premier DX programme in July 2014, under the care of the RSGB and the IOTA manager, Roger Balister, G3KMA. The last fifty years has seen the programme grow to 2 500 active island chasers and approximately 15 000 more casual participants. It is perhaps second in scale and scope to the DXCC award; indeed, many would argue it is a step beyond that programme. The 50th Anniversary event in Windsor was very successful, with enthusiasts travelling from the UK and overseas to celebrate this important milestone in DX history.

Those close to it have been anxious to ensure the sustainability of the IOTA programme over the next 50 years and have

Your comments, suggestions and news items are welcome. If you have some DX news, contest news or something of interest, send it to zs4bs@netactive.co.za

spent some time reviewing the challenges and opportunities it faces. A number of issues have been identified: firstly, the heavy reliance of the programme on just a few key people; secondly, the need to ensure that IT support for the programme is modern and robust and will include online island credit submission akin to LoTW; and thirdly, a requirement for a friendlier and more accessible website which will be of greater use to both newcomers and the more experienced island chaser.

The review accepted without question that all island and participant databases should be preserved and that any changes should be backwards compatible. In addition, it was important to seek ways to rejuvenate and ensure the sustainability of the programme. This vision we loosely called "New IOTA."

Over the summer, one particular pathway began to emerge. It was that of partnership rather than a top-down approach, which had characterised some aspects of the programmes management in the past. The RSGB Board is agreed that the IOTA team should be invited to establish a group to develop and implement the "New IOTA" concept, with the RSGB providing seed-corn finance and other appropriate support. This approach acknowledges that the strength of the programme lies with its national and international participants whom, we are assured, have the motivation, skills and enthusiasm to develop the pro-

gramme and to promote it to its full potential. This way forward has the full support of the IOTA team and has been welcomed by the wider IOTA community both at home and abroad.

Our initial feedback is best summed up by Don Chamberlain MD, W9DC, who said:

"I am excited that the RSGB is combining with IOTA enthusiasts around the world to create a "New IOTA" program. Their efforts will resolve most existing QSL and submission issues and will encourage IOTA chasers to participate in this very prestigious and challenging award.

Over the next nine months, the group will be asked, through a market/user-LED approach, to develop a plan for the "New IOTA" programme to embrace management and governance, IT, data management and security, and a review of partnering options and any other relevant topics. It is envisaged that this will lead to a devolved structure, with a Memorandum of Understanding to clearly delineate the responsibilities of all parties.

The Society and the programmes Management believe that the resulting governance structure, management processes and IT framework will ensure the IOTA programme is not only sustainable into the next years of the 21st century, but continues to grow and play the prominent role that it has done in Amateur Radio DXing and contest activity for the last fifty years.

John Gould, G3WKL
President, RSGB

For further information, contact Heather Parsons, Communications Manager at e-mail heather.parsons@rsgb.org.uk

Operating Tip

Speaking of LCRs, also known as UBN (Unique-Busted-NIL) reports now is a great time to start looking over your errors from last year. Think of it as watching game video from the previous game - it will alert you to your weaknesses and help you focus on improving what needs to be improved!

September

5 - Casual Day; Secretary's Day
6 - Cellar2Cellar Trail Run and Wine Experience, Stellenbosch
6 and 7 - IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day; Staalwater Trail Run & MTB Challenge, Caledon
11 - Closing date October RAE
13 - Radio Technology in Action in Pretoria; Baa-Baa-Licious Braai Feast, Riebeeck Valley; Baviaanskloof Trail Run, Geelhoutbos
16 - World Ozone day
21 to 27 - IARU Region 1 General Conference, Albena, Bulgaria
24 - Heritage Day; National Braai Day
24 to 28 - Oceana Hout Bay Seafood Festival
25 - Rosh Hashanah
27 and 28 - CQ WW RTTY Contest

October

2 - SARL 80 m QSO Party
3 - Schools close
4 - Spring QRP Contest; RTA in Port Elizabeth; Yom Kippur
5 - RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest
6 - World Habitat Day
11 and 12 - AWA AM/SSB Contest
13 - Schools open
16 - RAE
17 to 19 - JOTA
18 - CQ Hou Koers
25 and 26 - CQ WW DX

Tuning an impedance matching network like an L network to match a feed point impedance is fairly straightforward. However, what about for an antenna that you use on *two* bands? You could switch between different component values, such as by using a different tap on an inductor or adding a capacitor. Switching in coaxial stubs also works, but Doug, W7KF, found an alternative solution <http://www.w7kf.com/Articles/Rigs/SkyHook2.html> that he put to work on his Inverted L for 160 and 80 meters. The original idea came from a 1970s QST article by Wes Hayward, W7ZOI, ("Hints and Kinks" in the June 1977 issue) that lets the network switch itself in and out by using resonance. As Wes observes, while having the antenna be resonant on the



lower band simplifies adjustment considerably, in the general case, the antenna does not need to be resonant on either band.

Free Gray-line software

Simon Brown, G4ELI, has released a simple Windows program, which displays Gray-line, Geomagnetic Indices, Solar Data, Sunrise and Sunset.

Download it from his website at <http://www.dit-dit-dit.com/Downloads.aspx>

CQ World Wide Rules

The CQ World Wide Committee announced that translations for the CQ WW DX Contest rules are now available in 14 languages <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>.

Enige iemand wat dit na Afrikaans wil vertaal?

(Thanks, CQ WW Director, Randy, K5ZD)

Word to the Wise

A fall is a common reason for a trip to the Emergency Room for older adults, usually male, when they look up, feel faint, then pass out when working on a ladder or on a tower. The usual cause is restricting blood flow in the arteries at the base of the brain when tipping one's head back. It seems to be a condition that becomes more pronounced with age. You can test this fairly easily: stand straight and tall - then tip your head back as far as it will go without bending your back. A few seconds of readjustment before you get your equilibrium back is more or less normal. If dizziness persists or gets worse, you have a problem to have checked out by your doctor. It is better to find this out at ground level than aloft, don't you think?

Grounding and Lightning protection

There is a good collection of downloadable white papers on grounding and lightning protection from the Polyphaser Company at the Smiths Power website. The list includes a paper specifically on grounding amateur stations.

<http://www.smithspower.com/brands/polyphaser/services/media-library/white-papers?page=2>

(Thanks, Bill, KC4PE)

Pulleys and Wire Antennas

If you use rope running through a pulley to hold up wire antennas, it is important to move or shift the rope from time-to-time. Leaving the pull rope "setting" in one spot for extended periods of time causes excess wear, as the outer fibres are elongated/stretched more than the inner ones. Just a little movement 2 - 3 times per year will go a long way toward keeping that rope flexible and doing its job. (Thanks, Don K4ZA)

Stainless Steel

While we may consider stainless steel to be the best of the best materials, it can corrode when deprived of oxygen and needs to be inspected like everything else. Sailors know corrosion as well as anyone and this *Cruising World* article describes the problem and how to check for corrosion.

<http://www.cruisingworld.com/how/beware-stainless-steel-corrosion>

(Thanks, Kirby, AF6OP)



African Islands

S7, Seychelles. Kasimir, DL2SBY, will be active as S79KB from the Seychelles in October. He will operate SSB, CW and RTTY on 30 to 10 metres from Mahe (4 to 9 October) and Praslin (9 to 18 October), both located in IOTA group AF-024. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

FT4TA, Tromelin. The latest and last press release ("One more thing...") before the team leaves for Tromelin can be read on the expedition website www.tromelin2014.com. "Initially, we will seek to maximize the number of contacts to give everyone a chance whatever their geographical position", which means that FT4TA will be active "quite often on the most prolific bands." Their second priority will be "activity on the low bands, with all the difficulties that it generates." The logs will be uploaded to Club Log on a daily basis; the leader board will not be activated and "neither the



pilots, nor the QSL Manager will have access to the log during the operation".

A special postage stamp, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the first amateur radio activity from Tromelin, will be used for all direct, OQRS and donor cards. The envelopes will be then postmarked and mailed by the TAAF; the process might take some time, but at the end of the day you will have your FT4TA QSL card and a Tromelin philatelic cover.

AF-016; FR, Reunion Island. Willi, DJ7RJ (30 September to 30 October) and Sven, DJ2CW (30 September to 8 October) will be active from Reunion Island as FR/Home call on the HF bands on CW and SSB. QSL via home call direct or via the bureau and LoTW.

AF-032; 5H, Zanzibar Island. Andrea, IZ1MHY will be active as 5H1MD from 28 September 28 to 10 October from Zanzibar (WLOTA 1080) on CW, SSB and the digital modes on HF. QSL via home call direct or via the bureau, eQSL and LoTW.

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

African DX

E3, Eritrea (Update/Dated 23 September). Jay, JA1TRC, from the FGC Radio Team reports: "Zorro shut down the station around 18:00 UTC on 22nd September for this trip. He reported that he made 4 200+ QSOs, with his pleasure of giving ATNOs. He said it was the toughest QRV from DX he had ever experienced and exhausted himself by his official duties. However, he was healed whenever he heard 'Thank you Zorro for your hard work.'

He is on his way back to JA land and expected to arrive in Tokyo around noon on 24 September local time. We will start arranging DXCC and LoTW documentations and register the LoTW account. We also will provide

ClubLog online check and OQRS for convenient QSLing, after he returns to SEISA/FGC office."

7Q, Malawi. Karl, DK2WV, will be active again as 7Q7VW from Karonga, Malawi from 1 to 21 October. He will operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 to 6 metres. QSL via home call.

History this Week

Week starting 22 September 2014



1825 Railroad transportation is born with first track in England

1851 The first time train dispatching by telegraph in the U.S. took place

1852 A new invention, the dirigible, is demonstrated

1879 Baldwin steam motors tram first tried in Sydney Australia

1879 Sydney Australia inaugurates steam motor tram route.

1955 Commercial TV begins in England

1956 First transatlantic telephone cable goes into operation

1983 Australia II wins America's Cup yacht race (first non-US winner)

